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LETTER DATED 2 NOVEMBER 1997 FROM THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION ESTABLISHED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 9 (b) (i) OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 687 (1991) ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The purpose of this letter is to inform you, and through you the members of the Security Council on 2 November, Iraq again violated its obligations by refusing to permit the entry into Iraq of UNSCOM personnel. These were the same personnel who were the subject of my letter to you of 30 October (S/1997/830).

The two UNSCOM personnel concerned were seeking to return to their normal place of work, the Commission's Baghdad Monitoring and Verification Centre (BMVC). On the arrival of the United Nations aircraft at Habbaniyah airfield on the morning of 2 November, Iraqi officials stated that the two personnel of United States nationality could not enter the country. In the circumstances, the two personnel returned to the Commission's Field Office in Bahrain while other non-US UNSCOM personnel proceeded to Baghdad. One officer of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), of United States nationality, who was not blocked from entry also returned to Bahrain, in conformity with the Agency's position that the two bodies charged with the task of ensuring the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction be afforded the same treatment by Iraq.

I would be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Richard BUTLER

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